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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/599,002 06/22/00 NYLAND

H 059836

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EXAMINER

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JOHANNSEN, D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1655

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DATE MAILED:

07/18/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/599,002	NYLAND ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Diana B. Johannsen	1655	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 Nov 2000.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-14 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-13, drawn to methods of disease prognosis, classified in class 435, subclass 6.
 - II. Claims 2, 4, and 7-13, drawn to methods of prophylaxis or therapy, classified in class 514, subclass 2.
 - III. Claims 6-13, drawn to methods of manufacturing a composition, classified in class 536, subclass 25.3.
 - IV. Claim 14, drawn to a kit comprising an "allele-specific binder", classified in class 536, subclass 24.31.
2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons: Inventions I, II, and III are drawn to patentably distinct methods having different objectives, requiring different process steps, and employing different reagents. For example, Invention I requires a step of determining genotype to achieve the objective of determining disease prognosis. Invention II requires a step of diagnostic imaging or surgical intervention or administering an agent to achieve the objective of "prophylaxis or therapy". Invention III requires "use of an FcR allele-specific binder" to achieve the objective of manufacturing a composition. Accordingly, the three methods are patentably distinct from one another.

Inventions I and IV, II and IV, and III and IV are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the "allele specific binder" of Invention IV may be used in a process that is materially different from each of Inventions I, II, and III, such as nucleic acid sequencing or synthesis.

3. It is pointed out that applicants have presented several claims in improper Markush format (see *ex parte Markush*, 1925 C.D. 126 and *In re Weber*, 198 USPQ 328). Particularly, claims 7-13 appear to be intended to encompass methods of prognosis (Invention I), methods of therapy (Invention II), and methods of manufacturing a composition (Invention III). These three types of methods are patentably distinct, as discussed above. A reference against one method would not be a reference against the other. Therefore, the restriction has been set forth for each of the various groups, irrespective of the improper format of the claims, because these are not proper species. Claims 7-13 have been included in multiple groups, and if elected, will be examined only as they read upon the invention of the elected group.

Upon election, applicants are required to amend the claims to set forth the elected inventive groups, otherwise these claims will be rejected as being in improper Markush format.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and recognized divergent subject matter, and because Inventions I-IV require different searches that are not co-extensive, examination of these distinct inventions would pose a serious burden on the examiner and therefore restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. A telephone call was made to Gordon Kit on April 9, 2001 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

6. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diana B. Johannsen whose telephone number is 703/305-0761. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00 am-3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, W. Gary Jones can be reached on 703/308-1152. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703/305-3014 for regular communications and 703/305-4242 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703/308-0196.

Diana Johannsen
July 16, 2001

Carla Myers
CARLA J. MYERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER